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SOUTH AMERICA

Die Cordillerenstaaten. Von Dr. Wilhelm Sievers. Sammlung Göschchen.

1. Bändchen: Einleitung, Bolivia und Perú. 148 pp. Maps, ills., index.
2. Bändchen: Ecuador, Colombia und Venezuela. 123 pp. Maps, ills., index. G. J. Göschchen, Berlin, 1913. 90 pfg. each. $6\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$.

Professor Sievers has done a painstaking piece of work in regional geography in these two volumes on the countries of the South American Cordillera. The extremely fine print of a large part of the first volume leaves the reader's eyes and patience almost exhausted, and is not a dignified form in which to cast such good results. One cannot find elsewhere so judicious and at the same time so clear a treatment of Bolivia and Peru, the two countries, which, with Venezuela (an old field of work for Professor Sievers), get the lion's share of the space.

After a brief general description of a country, there are compact explanations of the physiography and climate of each natural region. Then follow excellent summaries of the effects of these physical conditions upon the vegetation and the people. These summaries reflect the author's wide reading, as well as his familiarity with both physical and anthropogeographic principles. To take a few illustrations. There is in no English book so excellent a description of the zone of vegetation on the coast of Peru, between 8° and 18° south latitude, in the so-called "Lomas" belt. Yet it is one of the most important and certainly one of the most fascinating features of Peru, set, as it is, between an upper and a lower desert. One may ride, as did the reviewer, from the upper "pampa" (in some places from the mountains) into the coast range and down into the zone of rains, 2,000-5,000 feet above the sea, and come out again into the lower desert, in less than three hours. From barren sand into luscious wild clover, knee-high; from warm, dry air to cool, saturated air and heavy showers; from a blazing sky to clouds and dense fogs—these are the contrasts between the Lomas and the belts of country on either hand.

Of similar character are Professor Sievers' distinctions between the forested Beni country in northern Bolivia and the country of the Missions farther south where grassland and forest alternate. There are many such illustrations of the thorough scholarship of the author. Where else than in Germany could one have all this published for less than twenty-five cents? The series of which these tiny volumes form a part deserves to be well known among the growing number of American geographers to whom German is no longer a convenience but a necessity.

ISAIAH BOWMAN.

AFRICA

Die deutschen Schutzgebiete in Afrika und der Südsee 1911-1912.

Ämtliche Jahresberichte, herausgegeben vom Reichs-Kolonialamt. xvii and 370 pp. E. S. Mittler & Sohn, Berlin, 1913. Mk. 11.50. 11×7 .

This official compilation has two merits worthy of note in connection with public statistics: 1: It is promptly issued, and this means that the figures are available while yet valuable. 2: The tables have been carefully digested for use. They are all summation records and comparisons with the summations of preceding years; they are the aggregate figures of population, justice, education, agriculture, trade and communications. They are logically presented for East Africa, Kamerun, Togo, German Southwest Africa, German New Guinea and Samoa. For each of these colonies there is a brief introductory essay setting forth the activity of the year for which the report is made. The soundest commentary which can be made upon this report is that it is entirely contained in 370 pages, practically a page a day for the record of a year of a great and widely extended empire.

La France en Afrique. Par Edmond Ferry. 301 pp. Armand Colin, Paris, 1905. Fr. 3.50. $7\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$.

The policy of the French in African colonization is the theme of this book. The author first reviews the advent of Napoleon in Africa and describes his diplomatic and crafty scheme of winning Africa for France by a seeming